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Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2002

The reported domestic primary aluminum production in March was 220,318 metric tons (t). The average daily production rate was 7,107 t, slightly higher than that of the previous month but 5% below the rate for March 2001.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 64.25 cents per pound in February to 66.50 cents per pound in March, according to Platts Metals Week. On March 14, American Metal Market reported that the buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) increased from 45 to 46 cents per pound to 48 to 49 cents per pound. The price remained at this level through the end of the month. According to Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report, the average monthly transaction price for aluminum UBCs increased from 46.2 cents per pound in February to 51.3 cents per pound in March.

2001 UBC Recycling Rate

According to data jointly released by the Aluminum Association Inc., the Can Manufacturer's Institute, and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc., 55.6 billion aluminum beverage cans were recycled in the United States in 2001. The recycling rate was 55.4% (Schaffer, 2002).

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased slightly from 66.50 cents per pound in March to 66.06 cents per pound in April. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs fluctuated during the month of April. On April 3, the price range increased to 49 to 50.5 cents per pound; on April 17, the price range decreased to 48 to 49 cents per pound; and on April 24, the price range increased to 49 to 51 cents per pound. The price range then held steady through the remainder of the month.

Reference Cited

Schaffer, Paul, 2002, Aluminum can recycling rate drops to 55.4% in '01: American Metal Market, v. 110, no. 66-2, April 30, p. 1-2.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/ New	Secondary recovery 2/ Old	Secondary recovery 2/ Total	Imports for consumption: Metals and alloys, crude	Imports for consumption: Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Imports for consumption: Total	Total new supply 3/	Total stocks, end of period 4/
2001: p/	2,637	1,880	1,260 r/	3,140 r/	2,560	683	3,240	9,020 r/	1,300
2001:									
March	232	161	103	265 r/	237	64	301	798 r/	1,550
April	225	149	105 r/	254 r/	197	62	258	737	1,590
May	229	160	104 r/	263 r/	209	58	267	760 r/	1,570
June	215	156	105 r/	261 r/	179	55	235	710 r/	1,470
July	214	152	109 r/	262 r/	201	55	257	733 r/	1,450
August	212	166	110 r/	276 r/	198	57	254	742 r/	1,420
September	206	159	106 r/	265 r/	252	56	308	779 r/	1,390
October	214	172	112 r/	284 r/	220	58	278	777 r/	1,360
November	208	152	106 r/	258 r/	248	57	305	771 r/	1,310
December	205	133	94 r/	227 r/	227	44	271	703 r/	1,300
January-March	708	483	307	790	630	180	811	2,310	1,550
2002:									
January	210	153 r/	105 r/	259 r/	272	58	330	798 r/	1,380
February	197	150	100 r/	251 r/	205	52	257	704	1,350
March	220	162	98	261	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-March	627	466	304	770	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
2001: p/	2,050	1,530	908	789	777 r/	716 r/	107	96	6	6	3,850 r/	3,140 r/
2001:												
March	175	131	77	67	64 r/	59 r/	8	7	1	1	324 r/	265 r/
April	163	122	79	69	59	55 r/	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	311 r/	254 r/
May	177	133	71	61	66 r/	60 r/	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	323 r/	263 r/
June	169	127	72	62	69 r/	63 r/	10	8	1	1	319 r/	261 r/
July	163	121	83	72	68 r/	62 r/	6	5	1	1	319 r/	262 r/
August	172	128	81	71	73 r/	68 r/	10	9	(2/)	(2/)	337 r/	276 r/
September	170	128	78	68	66 r/	61 r/	9	7	1	1	324 r/	265 r/
October	186	139	80	70	69 r/	63 r/	12	11	1	1	348 r/	284 r/
November	171	127	74	64	61 r/	56 r/	10	9	1	1	317 r/	258 r/
December	163 r/	120	62	54	50 r/	46 r/	8	7	(2/)	(2/)	284 r/	227 r/
January-March	515	388	227	197	196	182	24	21	1	1	963	790
2002:												
January	166 r/	123 r/	80 r/	70 r/	61 r/	56 r/	11	10	(2/)	(2/)	318 r/	259 r/
February	163 r/	121 r/	74 r/	64 r/	60 r/	55 r/	11	10	(2/)	(2/)	309 r/	251 r/
March	165	122	77	67	65	61	12	11	(2/)	(2/)	319	261
January-March	494	365	231	201	186	172	34	30	1	1	946	770

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MARCH 2002 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	137,000	165,000	102,000	122,000
Integrated aluminum companies	77,000	77,000	66,900	66,900
Independent mill fabricators	54,400	65,300	50,500	60,600
Foundries	10,000	12,000	8,950	10,700
Other consumers	364	437	364	437
Total	279,000	319,000	228,000	261,000

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN 2002 1/

(Metric tons)

	March				January-March 2/	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 3/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts 3/	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	27,000	84,900	86,400	25,500	240,000	242,000
Can stock clippings	3,720 r/	17,500	16,700	4,510	48,700	49,000
Other clippings	7,590 r/	11,200	11,300	7,500	33,600	33,900
Borings and turnings	4,370	22,200	22,200	4,350	67,000	66,900
Dross and skimmings	3,790 r/	38,500	38,500	3,810	115,000	115,000
Total new scrap	46,400 r/	174,000	175,000	45,600	504,000	507,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	9,360 r/	33,100	33,600	8,910	100,000	100,000
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,830	2,390	2,560	1,650	7,110	7,610
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	30,600 r/	56,500	56,900	30,200	177,000	180,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	4,590	9,510	9,740	4,360	27,400	28,800
Total old scrap	46,300 r/	102,000	103,000	45,200	312,000	317,000
Sweated pig	215	1,130	1,130	215	3,390	3,400
Total all classes	93,000 r/	277,000	279,000	91,000	820,000	827,000

r/ Revised.
1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
2/ Includes revised data from previous month(s).
3/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2002 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	March				January-March 3/	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	5,160	1,830	1,940	5,050	6,110	5,860
380 and variations	6,850	34,700	34,500	7,000	102,000	101,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	5,210	10,000	10,000	5,180	30,200	30,200
No. 319 and variations	10,800	12,900	12,900	10,800	39,000	39,900
F-132 alloy and variations	2,190	2,460	2,460	2,190	7,390	7,300
Al-Zn alloys	630	59	59	630	176	263
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	91	168	168	91	505	505
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	--	191	191	--	573	573
Other 4/	3,800	8,780	8,750	3,820	26,100	27,400
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	7,240 r/	17,800	17,800	7,220	53,600	53,700
Total all alloys	42,000 r/	88,900	88,900	42,000	266,000	266,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	6,060	XX	XX	18,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,760	XX	XX	11,000	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	901	XX	XX	2,670	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 5/	XX	78,200	XX	XX	234,000	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes revised data from previous month(s).

4/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

5/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2002 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February
Argentina	4,950	19,500	--	(2/)	100	200	5,050	19,700
Australia	15,700	26,500	2	2	--	--	15,700	26,500
Bahrain	679	5,410	1,050	1,830	--	--	1,730	7,240
Belgium	--	--	347	552	--	--	347	552
Brazil	1,170	2,260	119	278	1,270	1,300	2,560	3,840
Canada	132,000	280,000	31,000	66,600	22,100	45,200	185,000	392,000
France	139	166	211	450	571	1,300	921	1,920
Germany	400	420	4,210	8,350	957	1,110	5,570	9,880
Ghana	--	--	--	--	758	2,240	758	2,240
Hungary	--	--	268	895	--	--	268	895
Italy	--	--	120	236	--	--	120	236
Japan	17	51	532	1,410	--	42	549	1,500
Korea, Republic of	2	3	491	896	--	--	493	899
Mexico	629	1,040	1,430	2,720	5,630	10,800	7,690	14,600
Netherlands	--	54	350	632	359	759	710	1,440
Norway	10	69	16	16	--	--	26	85
Russia	28,600	90,600	2,470	5,380	1,750	3,840	32,900	99,800
South Africa	--	5,480	1,800	4,650	8	8	1,800	10,100
Spain	200	321	2	17	--	--	203	338
Sweden	--	--	330	554	22	44	352	598
Switzerland	(2/)	(2/)	171	183	--	--	171	183
Ukraine	--	--	--	20	--	--	--	20
United Arab Emirates	6,700	10,400	--	--	--	118	6,700	10,600
United Kingdom	41	87	714	1,780	455	856	1,210	2,720
Venezuela	13,300	28,600	1,410	2,640	588	939	15,300	32,200
Other	93	5,930	4,990	9,920	3,080	6,880	8,160	22,700
Total	205,000	477,000	52,000	110,000	37,700	75,700	294,000	662,000

-- Zero.
1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2002 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February
Australia	--	--	165	320	1	175	166	496
Belgium	(2/)	20	230	1,140	--	40	231	1,200
Brazil	22	51	3,200	7,940	--	--	3,230	7,990
Canada	6,360	12,600	34,600	69,800	19,500	38,300	60,500	121,000
China	--	13	2,970	4,980	13,200	24,200	16,200	29,200
Czech Republic	--	--	(2/)	1	--	--	(2/)	1
Dominican Republic	--	3	31	167	--	--	31	170
France	36	44	388	888	--	--	424	932
Germany	207	467	235	471	20	20	462	958
Hong Kong	62	63	430	544	698	1,590	1,190	2,200
India	37	37	24	38	294	637	355	712
Israel	17	34	146	315	--	--	164	349
Italy	2	3	240	338	--	3	242	344
Japan	362	716	768	1,370	2,260	4,630	3,390	6,720
Korea, Republic of	120	136	791	2,240	5,440	10,400	6,350	12,800
Malaysia	--	(2/)	50	93	63	72	113	166
Mexico	7,900	18,000	7,410	16,900	3,080	7,440	18,400	42,300
Netherlands	7	13	44	146	--	41	51	200
Russia	16	19	--	13	--	--	16	31
Saudi Arabia	--	--	999	1,900	--	--	999	1,900
Singapore	1	4	542	1,090	92	92	635	1,190
Spain	12	12	110	166	35	35	157	213
Sweden	--	--	66	91	--	--	66	91
Taiwan	1	3	571	881	1,290	3,170	1,860	4,050
Thailand	--	--	1,220	2,050	123	143	1,350	2,190
United Kingdom	17	40	561	1,460	70	330	648	1,830
Venezuela	--	3	885	1,630	--	--	885	1,630
Other	25	34	2,120	4,520	608	820	2,750	5,370
Total	15,200	32,300	58,800	121,000	46,800	92,100	121,000	246,000

-- Zero.
1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.